

CIVIL RIGHTS CALENDAR

Women's History Month



Clara Shortridge Foltz
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DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING
State of California - State and Consumer Services Agency
2218 Kausen Drive - Suite 100 - Elk Grove, CA 95758
916.478.7251
TTY 800.700.2320 Videophone 916.226.5285
www.dfeh.ca.gov



March 2012



Clara Shortridge Foltz, California's first female lawyer and a suffragist, sued the University of California, Hastings Law College, winning the right for women to be admitted into law school. *Foltz v. Hodge* (1879) 54 Cal. 28.) Foltz's lobbying led to the enactment of the Women's Lawyer Bill under the Statutes of 1878 of the Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature, which amended then section 275 of the Code of Civil Procedure to read: "Any citizen or person resident of this State who has bona fide declared his or her intention to become a citizen in the manner required by law, of the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character, and who possesses the necessary qualifications of learning and ability, is entitled to admission as attorney and counselor in all the Courts of this State." Under the language of Article XX, section 18, California became one of the first states to open its doors to women to enter the legal profession. She was also the impetus for Article I, section 8, of the California Constitution, which in its original form, as Article XX, section 18, of the Constitution of 1879, this provision read: "No person shall on account of sex be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation, or profession." Foltz's many other trail-blazing accomplishments included becoming the first woman appointed clerk to the State Judiciary Committee, member of the State Board of Corrections, a licensed Notary Public, director of a major bank, a deputy district attorney of Los Angeles, founder and publisher of the *San Diego Daily Bee* and *New American Woman Magazine*. In 1930, at the age of 81, Foltz was the first woman to run for Governor of California.

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is California's civil rights agency, which protects Californians from employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination, and hate violence. The DFEH investigates, conciliates, mediates, and prosecutes violations of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), Unruh Civil Rights Act, and Ralph Civil Rights Act. www.dfeh.ca.gov.

DFEH Events This Month

- Read the new article on Rulemaking and Mediating at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Chief of Mediation Annmarie Billotti.
- March 1, the DFEH Bay Area Regional Office moves to Fremont.
- March 2, Director Phyllis Cheng presents the Department's update at the Employment Round Table of Southern California (ERTSC) Breakfast Seminar "Advanced Issues in Employment Investigations," RAND Corporation, Santa Monica. Register at <http://ertscseminar.eventbrite.com/>
- March 6, Senior Staff Counsel Phoebe Liu makes a presentation on "DFEH procedures and state laws compared to the EEOC and federal laws" at the California Women's Law Center, Los Angeles.
- March 15, Director Phyllis Cheng, Special Projects Counsel | Mediator Jon Ichinaga and Special Investigations Unit Administrator | Staff Counsel Alexandra Seldin present a noontime seminar on the DFEH-UCI Civil Rights Clinic, UCI Law School, Irvine.
- March 20, Director Phyllis Cheng present "Civil Rights Challenge" at a luncheon of the Sacramento County Bar Association Labor & Employment Law Section, Firehouse Restaurant, Old Town Sacramento.

February 2012

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April 2012

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bay Area Regional Office moves to Fremont	2 ERTSC Breakfast Seminar	3
4	5	6 California Women's Law Center Presentation	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 DFEH-UCI Law School Presentation	16	17
18	19	20 Sacramento County Bar Assoc. Labor & Employment Bar Section Presentation	21	22	23	24 St. Patrick's Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31